



Key Points

- **POTENTIALLY SEVERE FIRE SEASON IS APPROACHING**
 - Statewide, fire season is 45 days ahead of a normal year due to persistent lack of rainfall, elevated temperatures and dry fuels
 - Live fuels are already able to carry fire
- **BARK BEETLE MORTALITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND, BUT INTER-AGENCY EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY**
 - Affected area grew by 100,000 acres in a six-month period in 2003
 - 1/3 of San Bernardino National Forest is dead
 - An active, multi-agency response is underway to remove dead trees (CDF, USFS, Edison et al).
- **THERE ARE CONTINUING CHALLENGES**
 - Executive Order D-69-03 expires at end of 2003 fire season
 - “Match” requirements on Federal funds limit the State’s ability to utilize them
 - Markets for Utilization of cut trees are still young and developing (wood products, biomass)
 - Closures of Fire Crew Camps (e.g. CDC, CYA, CCC)
 - Staff for administering new, multi-million dollar grant programs